

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 06736 091510Z

43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

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R 091425Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 6736

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, SU, PINR

SUBJ: PROPOSED MEETING WITH SADIQ EL MAHDI

1. FADIL EL MAHDI, DAKAR BASED DIRECTOR OF UNITED (GULF) FISHERIES OF KUWAIT OPERATIONS, TOOK EMBOFF ASIDE RECENTLY AT RECEPTION TO TELL HIM THAT HIS COUSIN, EX-SUDANESE PRIME MINISTER SADIQ EL MAHDI, WOULD BE MAKING EXTENDED PILGRIMAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA SOMETIME IN DEC. FADIL ASKED WHETHER AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET DISCREETLY WITH SADIQ EL MAHDI WHILE HE WAS ABROAD. (EMBOFF HAS KNOWN FADIL EL MAHDI FOR OVER A YEAR, OCCASIONALLY TALKS ABOUT SUDANESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH HIM, AND HAS NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT HE IS SADIQ EL MAHDI'S COUSIN.)

2. FADIL SAID HE NOT AUTHORIZED DIVULGE REASONS FOR WHICH SADIQ WANTED MEETING. EMBOFF SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE THAT IT MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING FOR SADIQ MEET OFFICIALLY OR SOCIALLY WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS BUT ADDED THAT HE WAS SURE THAT USG WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH SADIQ WHICH NIMERI GOVT, WITH WHICH WE HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MIGHT INTERPRET AS INTERFERENCE IN SUDANESE AFFAIRS. AT SAME TIME, EVENTUALITY OF A MEETING WAS NOT RULED OUT CATEGORICALLY. EMBOFF, WITHOUT BEING PARTICULARLY

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ENCOURAGING, ASKED IF FADIL MERELY WANTED TO HAVE EMBOFF'S

OPINION AS TO ATTITUDE OF USG IN EVENT SADIQ REQUESTED MEETING OR WHETHER HE WISHED EMBOFF REPORT TO WASHINGTON, AS HE WAS WILLING TO DO, THAT SADIQ WISHED ARRANGE A MEETING. FADIL SAID HE WOULD OBTAIN MORE INFO ABOUT SADIQ EL MAHDI'S INTENTIONS AND DISCUSS MATTER WITH EMBOFF AGAIN. HE ASSURED EMBOFF THAT SADIQ HAD NO INTENTION OF ASKING US TO INTERFERE IN SUDANESE AFFAIRS. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT WE WOULD NOT EVEN WISH GIVE APPEARANCE OF INTERFERENCE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN EVENT FADIL EL MAHDI RAISES THIS MATTER AGAIN.
AGGREY

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